



July — September 2003

Environmental Action Update

A Quarterly Newsletter About Environmental Activities at McClellan

Air Force seeks public's view on cleanup options for six sites

The Air Force is planning a meeting in September to hear what community members think about its proposed cleanup solutions for six sites. This meeting is a chance for members of the public to express their views on how best to cleanup the six sites at the former Air Force base.

The six sites and the proposed cleanup solutions are explained in a document called a proposed plan. The proposed plan also shows the cost of each cleanup option. The Air Force proposes six sites for unrestricted use after they finish cleaning them up. The sites would then be turned over to the County of Sacramento for redevelopment.

For people who are not able to attend the meeting, there is an open public comment period. The public comment period is expected to begin in September and will run for 30 days. During this time, people may either mail or phone in their comments. People who would like to receive copies of the proposed plan should call the phone number below. Based upon the comments received, the final cleanup alternatives may change.

The proposed plan is an important step towards a record of decision. A record of decision is a document that identifies the final cleanup choice and levels for the six sites. The Air Force anticipates signing the record of decision in December. *(See related photos on back page.)*

For questions or to request a copy of the proposed plan for the six sites, call Dawn Young, community relations specialist, at (916) 643-1742, ext. 233. People may mail their comments to:
Dawn Young, 3411 Olson St.,
McClellan, CA 95652. ■



A heavy load for sure – This 20,000-gallon underground storage tank is one of approximately 220 underground tanks removed and disposed of from the former McClellan Air Force Base.

Air Force officials are in the process of investigating old tank sites to determine the nature and extent of contamination, if any. Air Force policy for closed bases is to remove all underground storage tanks unless the new land owners specifically request a waiver for reuse. ■

**Welcome back,
Nathan**



Nathan Schumacher is McClellan's new Public Participation Specialist from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. He has been with DTSC since 1994.

Born in New York City, he attended Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Mich., where he majored in political science.

Schumacher is no stranger to the McClellan environmental cleanup program. "I worked on McClellan for a couple of years back in the 1990s, so I am familiar with much of McClellan's history," he said. "From what I understand, there is a lot of activity and a lot of good work going on.

"I look forward to meeting and working with all the members of the Restoration Advisory Board. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please call or email me. If I can't help directly, I will find someone who can."

Schumacher can be reached at (916) 255-3650. ■

Groundwater investigation fills the gaps

Air Force officials have finished another stage in the containment of contaminated groundwater at McClellan. A total of 70 additional monitoring wells were installed on and off the former base to help complete the picture of the location of the contaminated groundwater. The installation of the wells completes this stage of the Groundwater Phase III Data Gaps.

The new wells also provide data that will be used to design the groundwater cleanup system. This step of the cleanup program deals with pulling the groundwater up and out of the ground and sending it to the groundwater treatment plant to be treated. This phase of the program will complete the containment of the contaminated groundwater by installing about 62 new extraction wells, converting seven wells to combined soil-vapor and groundwater wells, and installing about 70 new monitoring wells.

"Completing these two steps in the groundwater investigation moves us closer to the final phase in the groundwater cleanup," said Diane Kiyota, the groundwater program manager for the Air Force.

The first two phases addressed the areas with the highest groundwater contamination levels and dealt with preventing contaminated groundwater from moving outside McClellan's boundaries.

When the Air Force finishes Phase III, they will contain and capture all of the contaminated groundwater.

"We know where the contamination is, and we have a work plan to clean it up," Kiyota said. The plan also outlines the sampling methods used to test the groundwater to see how clean it is. ■



Filling the gaps – A field technician prepares to sample groundwater from the eastern portion of McClellan.

McClellan Environmental Remedial Scoreboard

As of July 1, 2003:

1,194,851

Pounds of volatile organic compound contamination removed from soil and groundwater.



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The **Environmental Action Update** is a publication of the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) at McClellan, California, designed to keep the public informed of environmental activities at the base. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, please write to AFRPA/DD-McClellan, 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652-1003 or phone (916) 643-1742 ext. 233.

**Environmental Action
Update**

www.afarpa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan

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08-03-Mc-News-aug.cdr - LCT 08/25/03 SAC

Air Force finishes water treatment improvements

Upgraded treatment system reduces hexavalent chromium

Upgrades to the McClellan Groundwater Treatment Plant are complete, enabling the plant to treat hexavalent chromium found in the groundwater.

Hexavalent chromium is naturally occurring in groundwater. Additionally, the Air Force used it in the past for chrome plating, steel hardening and painting. Elevated levels of hexavalent chromium were discovered recently in the groundwater being discharged from the treatment plant.

The newly installed ion-exchange treatment system, located at the groundwater treatment plant, can clean up



The new ion-exchange treatment system also included tank modifications and new piping.

Groundwater treatment plant

to 750 gallons of water per minute. The new system reduces the level of hexavalent chromium found in groundwater to acceptable discharge levels that are safe for human health and the environment. The cleaned water is then discharged to Magpie Creek and to Beaver Pond.

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Excavation nearly complete under the big tent

Digging activities are almost complete at Confirmed Site 10, which is a former disposal pit on the west side of McClellan.

The nearly 2-acre, 30-foot deep site contained industrial and radiological waste and was operational from the 1950s to the mid-'60s. During the excavation process, the site was covered by a large tent.

For the past two years, CS 10 has been the focus of an intensive, successful effort to remove contaminated soil and debris. To date, the Air Force has dug up about 50,000 cubic yards of

soil and 499 drums ranging in size from 20–55 gallons. Most drums have been inspected, sorted and safely disposed of at approved sites in Utah and Idaho. Nearly 25,000 cubic yards of dug up soil has been put to the side and remains in the pit. The soil will remain at CS 10 until money is available to pay for disposal.

After the money becomes available and all the staged soil is disposed, the Air Force will remove and dispose the last foot of soil in the pit. Afterwards, sampling will be conducted to ensure it meets safety requirements. Meanwhile, the Air Force continues to inspect the site, provide security and conduct air monitoring to ensure community safety while awaiting money to remove the remaining soil. ■



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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



*For more information about McClellan's
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www.afarpa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan

RAB Education Seminar
Tuesday, October 28, 2003
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
at Building 10, McClellan

*For more information, please call
Dawn Young, at (916) 643-1742, ext. 233*

Plant upgrades complete

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The hexavalent chromium treatment system became operational June 23, a week ahead of schedule. The selected treatment system, which cost about \$1 million, was the most cost-effective option examined. In addition, the plant can handle increased flows in the future.

The groundwater treatment plant was first designed to remove contaminants from the groundwater that easily evaporate into the air. These contaminants, known as volatile organic compounds, usually come from solvents and cleaners.

The new hexavalent chromium treatment system will be on display during an open house at the groundwater treatment plant Sept. 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. Directional signs will be posted. Anyone with questions about the treatment system or open house can call McClellan Community Relations at 643-1742, ext. 233. ■

Restoration Advisory Board members tour sites to be discussed at September public meeting

This warehouse, together with the properties below, are included in the six sites mentioned on page 1 that the Air Force is planning to hand over to the County.



Steve Mayer, Air Force program manager, briefs members of the Restoration Advisory Board. The six sites are being considered for "unrestricted use" once cleanup has been completed.

